



'CHAMPIONSHIP BRASS FROM THE HOLME VALLEY'



ABOUT THE BAND

The village of Hepworth is situated on the edge of the Peak District National Park, close to the 'Summer Wine' town of Holmfirth.

There has long been a tradition of brass bands and music making in the Holme Valley and the band has been part of this since its formation in 1882.



History

The band first made an impression on the national contesting scene in the late 1950's, winning the Senior Cup in 1959. Success continued on both the local and national contesting scene with further Senior Cup victories in 1972 and 1979.

The 1990's saw the start of a contesting renaissance that has continued to this day, with victories at local and national level securing promotion to the Championship Section in 1999.

The new millennium heralded the beginning of Hepworth's most successful contesting period in its history culminating in wins at the Scottish Open Championships and the Grand Shield.

In 2009 the band finished as runners up at the Butlins Mineworkers Festival, the Yorkshire Regional Championships, Saddleworth Whit Friday Marches and the English National Championships, securing qualification to the finals of the National Championships for the second time in three years.

In 2010, the band regained the title of Saddleworth Whit Friday March Champions.

In March this year, the band finished runners up at the Yorkshire Regional Championships thereby qualifying to represent Yorkshire once again at the finals of the British Brass Band Championships at the Royal Albert Hall in October.



Rankings

Currently ranked in the top 20 of the 'World of Brass' rankings, the band is firmly established as one of the Country's top brass bands and is widely regarded as one of the most consistent performers on the contesting circuit.

Concerts

As well as the bands impressive record on the contest platform it is equally at home on the concert stage, where it has gained a reputation for presenting varied, exciting and polished performances.

This season the band staged and promoted 'Championship Brass from the Holme Valley' - a series of themed concerts promoted across the district.

The band has also commissioned the world-renowned composer Kenneth Downie to write 'Pennine Portraits' - a new work for brass band that brings together music and image to capture and portray the distinctive landscape and cultural heritage of the area.

The work was premiered at the 2010 Holfirth Arts Festival and we hope that the commission will provide an opportunity to further develop the bands profile by performing at established Art and Music Festivals.

The flexibility of the brass band enables it to embrace a range of programme concepts and themes... 'Hymns of Praise', 'A Big Band Spectacular', 'Brass & Voices', 'A Night at the Classics', 'Music of Stage & Screen'.

Television, Radio & Recordings

The band has recently appeared on BBC 'Songs of Praise' with soprano Lesley Garrett and has recorded for the BBC Radio 2 'Listen to the Band' programme.

On the recording front the band has recorded with international trumpet soloist Huug Stekete for his solo CD 'Shining Waters'. 'Portraits' features the band with soloists from the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Orchestra of The Hague. 'Celebration' was released in 2007 to mark the occasion of the bands 125th anniversary. Earlier recordings include 'Pratty Flowers', 'Carnival', 'Marching with Hepworth' and 'A Century of Brass'.

Quotes

Philip Sparke... *"A performance of immense stature. A jaw dropping technical facility was married to musical insight of the highest order - You nailed it!!"*

4Barsrest... *"A highly polished account, full of colour, excitement and the underlying feeling that they had worked their socks off in preparation."*

Contact

For concert enquiries and for further information about the band please contact the band manager:

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